

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PK, GH

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON M. AKRAM ZAKI,
NEW PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR

REFERENCE: ACCRA 1990

1. PAK NEWSPAPERS CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT APRIL 24 ON APPOINT-

MENT OF M. AKRAM ZAKI AS GOP AMBASSADOR TO GHANA. ZAKI
HAS SERVED SINCE NOVEMBER 1972 AS DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR EUROPE AND AMERICAS IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. PRIOR TO THAT HE SERVED AS MINISTER AND DCM
IN WASHINGTON AND WILL BE WELL KNOWN TO POL COUNSELOR
BAXTER.

2. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ZAKI WAS BORN IN VILLAGE IN
GUJRANWALA DISTRICT, PUNJAB, OCTOBER 27, 1931;
GRADUATED FROM FOREMEN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (LAHORE) IN
PHILOSOPHY AND ECONOMICS (1951); RECEIVED LAW DEGREE
FROM PUNJAB UNIVERSITY (1953); EARNED MASTER'S DEGREE
FROM FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY (1955).

3. HIS EARLY CAREER FOUND HIM POSTED TO LONDON,
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BRUSSELS, RANGOON, NEW DELHI, ROME AND BERNE. HE WAS

DEPUTED FOR ONE TOUR AS INSTRUCTOR TO CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY (LAHORE). FOLLOWED BY ASSIGNMENT AS DIRECTOR FOR INDIA IN MFA (1965-1968), AND POL COUNSELOR IN OTTAWA (1968-1971). NEWS REPORTS STATE THAT HE HAS ATTENDED SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. HE ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ON RECENT TRIPS TO THE US, UK AND FRANCE.

4. MRS. ZAKI IS NEPALESE, THE SISTER OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER B. P. KOIRALA (NEPALESE CONGRESS PARTY, WITH HISTORY OF ANTI-MONARCHICAL ACTIVITY). SHE IS U.S. EDUCATED, BRIGHT, GRACIOUS, WITH ONE SON (KAMAL - ABOUT 16) AND A DAUGHTER (TARA - ABOUT 15) BOTH OF WHOM HAVE ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ISLAMABAD. MRS. ZAKI HAS SPENT PAST SEVERAL SUMMERS IN INDIA VISITING HER FAMILY (IN EXILE THERE). ZAKI'S BROTHER, ANWAR ZAHID, IS CURRENTLY COMMISSIONER OF LAHORE DIVISION.

5. IN THE PAST THREE YEARS OF FREQUENT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS WE HAVE FOUND HIM COOPERATIVE, PUTTING IN A STEADY, COMPETENT PERFORMANCE. HIS ATTITUDES TOWARD THE US ARE MIXED: HE KNOWS IT WELL AND IS CRITICAL WHERE HE HAS PERCEIVED USG POLICIES TO HAVE BEEN UNFAVORABLE TO THE GOP. HE IS ARTICULATE, ABLE TO PRESENT HIS COUNTRY'S VIEWPOINT PERSUASIVELY. LIKE OTHERS OF HIS AGE GROUP, HE IS NOT A HARD-LINER ON PAK RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

6. TEMPERMENTALLY, ZAKI CAN BE MOODY, EVEN BRUSQUE, AND AT OTHER TIMES RELAXED WITH A DISPLAY OF QUICK WIT AND GOOD HUMOR. HE IS INTELLIGENT BUT SELF-CENTERED. ZAKI HAS CONFIDED SEVERAL TIMES TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO ENTER POLITICS (A MOVE HIS WIFE FEARS BECAUSE OF HER OWN FAMILY'S EXPERIENCE). HE ENJOYS MUSIC AND LITERATURE. PHOTO FOLLOWS BY POUCH.
BYROADE

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